

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1 through 7 and 12 are pending, with Claims 1, 2, 6, and 12 being independent. Claims 1, 2, 6 and 12 have been amended. The Official Action asked that Applicant provide support for the amendments. In response, Applicant respectfully wishes to direct the Examiner's attention to, page 63, lines 8 through 15 and Fig. 39, and page 63, line 20 through page 64, line 7 among other places. Of course, the claims are not limited to the disclosed embodiments. Favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Claims 1, 2, 6, and 12 were objected on the grounds that "processing to be performed for the plurality of data buffers" is ambiguous. All objections are respectfully traversed, and are submitted to have been obviated by the amendment of the claims in a manner earnestly believed to avoid the grounds of objection, viz, "for the plurality of data buffers" has been changed to --with the plurality of data buffers--, which is not ambiguous. In this regard, Applicant respectfully wishes to point out that breadth does not constitute ambiguousness.

The Official Action makes reference to 35 U.S.C. § 101, and states that the claims do define statutory subject matter. Applicant gratefully appreciates the Examiner's confirmation that the claims are statutory.

Claims 1 through 7 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over US 2003/0182503 A1 (Leong, et al.) in view of newly-cited US 6,820,187 B2 (Asano, et al.). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 2, 6, and 12 variously recite, *inter alia*, updating, using another command block, the buffer for which the data communication has been completed in accordance with the notification (Claims 1 and 2) or completion message (Claims 6 and 12) (the notification or completion message regarding which one of the plurality of data buffers has completed a data communication) without updating the other data buffers.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that neither Leong, et al. nor Asano, et al., even in the proposed combination, assuming, *arguendo*, that such could be combined, discloses or suggests at least the above-discussed claimed features as recited, *inter alia*, in Claims 1, 2, 6, and 12. Applicant respectfully submits that Leong, et al. shows, e.g., that a storage system controls a disk in a disk array, wherein the group_read I/O task 320 is suspended until its child I/O task is complete (see, e.g., [0065]-[0066]), while Asano, et al. discloses, e.g., that the DMA controller issues a command completion notice together with the VTID corresponding to the performed command (e.g., col. 10, lines 20-30). Applicant respectfully submits that neither the foregoing nor the remainder of Leong, et al. and Asano, et al. provides either a description or a suggestion of at least the above-discussed claimed features as recited, *inter alia*, in Claims 1, 2, 6, and 12. In this regard, Applicant respectfully submits that contrary to the statement in the Official Action, Leong, et al. does not “implicitly” show the claimed features, since inherency requires that the claimed feature invariably and necessarily be present in the cited document, which is not the case.

Applicant further respectfully submits that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited documents that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at such features.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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